AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3 as follows:

with the proviso that said peptide is not the peptide having the following sequence: IETWILRHP (SEQ ID NO:29).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 as follows:

According to another advantageous embodiment of the invention, said peptide has the following sequence: IETWILRHP (SEQ ID NO:29).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 29 as follows:

- Figure 5 shows that the nine carboxy-terminal amino acids of the M ectodomain constitute a proapoptotic sequence. (*A*) Amino acid sequence alignments for mutant proteins (SEQ ID NOs:31-40, in descending order), the names of which are shown on the right. (*B*) and (*C*) Transfected HeLa cells were assayed for apoptotic nuclear fragmentation after 25 hours of transfection (*B*) or for the early stage of apoptosis after 20 hours (*C*). (*B*) HeLa cells were stained with Hoescht 33258 and examined for chromatin condensation. C^{95-114}-tagged EGFP (Control; open box) served as a negative control. The percentages of fusion protein-expressing cells with apoptotic nuclei are indicated. Each experimental point represents the mean ± the SD of results obtained from three separate chambers. Statistical analysis for fusion proteins were carried out by comparison with the control. (*C*). The rate of early apoptosis was analyzed by Annexin V binding, as assessed by flow cytometry analysis. Apoptosis in fusion protein-expressing HeLa cells was defined as EGFP-positive cells that bound Annexin V-APC but excluded PI. For each sample, data from 10,000 EGFP-positive cells were collected. The percentages of M^{1-40}- and M^{32-40}-expressing cells labeled with Annexin V are indicated (square).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 13 as follows:

- Figure 6 shows that the residues M-34 to M-39 contribute to the death-promoting activity of the M ectodomain. (*A*) Amino acid sequence alignments of $M^{1\text{-}40/DEN\text{-}2}$ (SEQ ID NO: 31), $M^{1\text{-}40/YF.17D}$ (SEQ ID NO: 37) and mutants $M^{1\text{-}40/DEN\text{-}2}$ (F^{36}) and $M^{1\text{-}40/YF.17D}$ (T^{34}, I^{36}, L^{37}, H^{39}). Identical amino acids are indicated (asterisks). The amino acid substitutions are underlined and indicated in bold. (*B*) After 25 hours of transfection, fusion protein-expressing HeLa cells were stained with Hoechst 33258 and examined for chromatin condensation. The percentages of fusion protein-expressing cells with apoptotic nuclei are indicated. Each experimental point represents the mean ± the SD of results obtained from three separate chambers. Fusion proteins were compared statistically with $C^{95\text{-}114}$-tagged EGFP (Control; open box).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 22 as follows:

- Figure 10 illustrates the alignment of the 40 C-terminal amino acids of M protein (M ectodomain; SEQ ID NO:38) from 4 serotypes of the dengue virus (DEN-1 to DEN-4), attenuated virus YFV 17D, West-Nile virus (WNV) and Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), and also specifically the alignment of the nine amino acids of the M ectodomain (SEQ ID NOs:39 and 40) from the same flavivirus which confer apoptotic activity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 28 as follows:

The plasmids $pCD72^{1\text{-}118}$-EGFP-$M^{1\text{-}40/DEN\text{-}1}$ were generated by amplifying the cDNA encoding the amino-terminal region of CD72 by PCR, using pCR-$CD72^{1\text{-}136}$ as a template and the following primers: 5'-GAGGCGGCTAGCGCTATGGCTGACGCTATCACG-3' (SEQ ID NO:30) corresponding to the 5'end of the CD72 gene and extended by 11 nucleotides to include a *Nhe*I restriction site and 5'-AGACACCCGGGGATAGAGAACTCCCAGGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:24)

corresponding to nt 387-402 at the 3'end of the CD72 gene and extended by 14 nucleotides to include a *Sma*I restriction site. The PCR product was digested with *Nhe*I and *Sma*I and inserted between the *Nhe*I and *Sma*I sites of pC^{95-114}-EGFP-$M^{1-40/DEN-1}$ to generate $pCD72^{1-118}$-EGFP-$M^{1-40/DEN-1}$.

Page 46 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please insert the attached Sequence Listing.